



## Market Update

According to the latest report from the Central Statistics Agency, Ethiopia's year-on-year inflation rate, which measures the price change between the same months of two consecutive years (February 2012 and February 2013), showed increases of 10.3 per cent for general price inflation; 7.9 per cent for food price inflation – below two digits for the first time since December 2010; and 14.3 per cent for non-food inflation. The year-on-year inflation rate for January 2013 stood at 12.5, 11.3 and 14.4 per cents for general, food and non-food price inflation respectively. The cereal consumer price index stabilized between January and February in line with seasonal expectations, compared to the five year average. Regionally, the cereal consumer price index fell in Afar (by 5.9 per cent), Somali (by 3.2 per cent) and Gambella (by 2.6 per cent) Regions and stabilized in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP Regions. However, an unseasonable cereal price increase (by 4.4 per cent) was registered in Beneshangul Gumuz. For more information, contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org) and [infodrmfss@dppc.gov.et](mailto:infodrmfss@dppc.gov.et)

## Relief Food Update

Relief food dispatch for the first round of 2013, targeting 2.48 million people nationwide, started this week. Under this round, beneficiaries in areas covered by the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector – DRMFSS (962,077 people), the NGO consortium Joint Emergency Operation – JEOP (635, 346 people) and WFP (890,925 people) will receive a full food basket and full rations of relief food. The shortage in CSB identified for the DRMFSS-covered areas last week was filled through a loan from WFP. Meanwhile, dispatch of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) food allocation for February is ongoing, with 52 per cent of total allocations dispatched to Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Somali Regions, as of 12 March. For more information, contact [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## WASH Update

Chronically water-insecure parts of the country continue to experience increasing water shortages due to the late onset of the *belg* (mid-February to May) rains - the onset of the *belg* rains was over a month late this year, and has yet to start in some *belg*-receiving parts of the country. Water and pasture availability in most parts of Afar, northern Somali and the southern and south eastern pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas of the country is expected to further deteriorate as a result of the forecast poor *gu/ganna/sugum* (March to June) rains. This will likely result in increased demand for provision of water for human and animal consumption in the coming months.

At present, a total of 52 water trucks are operational out of 109 trucks requested nationwide, leaving a critical gap of 57 trucks, including in East and West Harerge, Bale and West Arsi zones of Oromia (43 trucks requested for 495,255 people, 18 operational); Afder, Siti, Korahe, Liben, Shebelle, Doolo, Fafan, Jarar and Nogob zones of Somali (35 trucks requested for 78,372 people, 17 operational); zones 1, 2 and 4 of Afar (20 requested for 30,425 people, 13 operational); Eastern, Central, Western, South-Western and Southern zones of Tigray (11 requested for 159,941, four operational) Regions. In addition, some 25,035 are reportedly affected by water shortages in North Gondar and North Shewa zones of Amhara Regions. The SNNP Regional Water Bureau and partners continue to closely monitoring water availability in Boricha and Loko *woredas* of Sidama zone; Mirab Abaya and Deramalo *woredas* of Gamo Gofa zone; Lanfaro and Wilbareg *woredas* of Silte zone; and drought prone *woredas* of Wolayita zone, following reports of water sources drying up. Similarly, the Oromia Regional Water Bureau started to closely monitor water availability in Teltele, Dire, Moyale, Dilo, Yabelo, Meyo and Arero *woredas* of Borena zone last week, as water sources are rapidly depleting in these areas. For more information, contact [awesterbeek@unicef.org](mailto:awesterbeek@unicef.org)

## Refugee Update

The Dollo Ado refugee complex continues to receive a large number of Somali refugees, with a total of 1,228 new arrivals registered between 1 and 15 March. Over 4,650 new arrivals were registered in February and some 3,654 in January. The refugees cite conflict and conflict-induced food insecurity as reasons for their flight. With the existing camps already at capacity – 191,608 people are currently hosted across five camps - UNHCR, and the Government refugee agency, ARRA, are focusing on expediting the opening of the sixth camp. Site planning/plotting has already started. In southern Ethiopia, UNHCR and ARRA continue to closely monitor the situation in the Moyale area, given that the 4 March election results in Kenya are being petitioned in court. The agencies have identified registration and settlement sites and have identified some non-food aid items (NFIs) to assist displaced Kenyans, should election-related violence forces civilians to cross the border.

In western Ethiopia, UNHCR and ARRA continue to investigate reports of some 10,000 people in Sudan's Blue Nile State, possibly moving towards the Gengen area of Benishangul Gumuz Region. Meanwhile, the small number of Sudanese refugees who sporadically cross the Ethiopian border are mostly accommodated in Sherkole, and some in Bambasi camps. In Gambella, UNHCR and ARRA are focusing their efforts on relocating some 16,000 refugees from South Sudan living in host communities in Gambella's Wanthowa *woreda*, to Pugnido camp. Wanthowa *woreda* receives an estimated 10 to 20 new arrivals per day. For more information, contact: [gezziabk@unhcr.org](mailto:gezziabk@unhcr.org)